

# INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

ABODE



Signature<sup>®</sup>  
signaturefloors

# ABODE

## INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

Thank you for choosing Signature flooring. When properly installed and cared for, your new flooring will be easy to maintain and will keep its great look for years.

Please read all the instructions before you begin the installation. Improper installation will void warranty.

### I. GENERAL PREPARATIONS

TOOLS REQUIRED: Spacers, hammer, ruler, tapping block, pencil, tape measure, utility knife, power saw and jig saw.

- Prior to installation, inspect material in daylight for visible faults/damage, including defects or discrepancies in colour or shine; check the edges of the flooring for straightness and any damage. No claims on surface defects will be accepted after installation.
- It is preferable to lay boards perpendicular to the window, following the direction of the main source of light. For the best result, make sure to always work from 3 to 4 cartons at a time, mixing the planks during the installation.
- Check if subfloor/site conditions comply with the specifications described in these instructions. If you are not satisfied, do not install, and contact your supplier.
- Flooring products can be damaged by rough handling before installation. Exercise care when handling and transporting these products. Store, transport and handle the flooring planks in a manner to prevent any damage. Store cartons flat, never on edge.
- Flooring products can be heavy and bulky. Always use proper lifting techniques when handling these products. Whenever possible, make use of material-handling equipment such as dollies or material carts. Never lift more than you can safely handle; get assistance.
- The environment where the flooring is to be installed is critically important with regard to successful installation and continued performance of the flooring products. The flooring is intended to be installed in interior locations only. These interior locations must meet climatic and structural requirements.
- In most cases, this product does not need to be acclimatized. However, if the boxes of flooring were exposed over 2 hours to extreme temperatures under 15°C or over 35°C within the 12 hours before the installation, acclimation is required. In this case, keep the boards in room

temperature for at least 12 hours in unopened package before you start the installation. The room temperature must be maintained consistent between 15-35°C before and during the installation.

- Flooring should only be installed in temperature-controlled environments. It is necessary to maintain a constant temperature of 15-35°C before and during the installation. Portable heaters are not recommended as they may not heat the room and subfloor sufficiently. Kerosene heaters should never be used.
- After installation, make sure that the flooring is not be exposed to temperatures less than 10°C or greater than 50°C.
- For floor surfaces exceeding 400m<sup>2</sup>. Length or width exceeding 20 metres, use expansion moldings.

### II. SUBFLOOR INFORMATION

- The flooring can be installed over most existing hard surface floor coverings, provided that the existing floor surface is clean, flat, dry, securely fastened, structurally sound and level to 3mm +/- within 1 metre.
- The substrate should not slope more than 25mm per 2 metres in any direction.
- You can lay Abode Floors over subfloors with depressions, grooves, grout joints that do not exceed 4mm in width and 4mm in depth, anything greater must be filled with patching and/or levelling compound.
- Substrates must be free from excessive moisture or alkali. Remove dirt, paint, varnish, wax, oils, solvents, any foreign matter and contaminates.
- Do not use products containing petroleum, solvents or citrus oils to prepare substrates as they can cause staining and expansion of the new flooring.
- Although this floor is waterproof, it is not aimed to be used as a moisture barrier. The subfloor must be dry, concrete moisture vapor emissions should not exceed 3.63 kg (ASTM F1869) / 90 % RH (ASTM F2170) with a PH limit of 9 / max. 2.5 % moisture content (CM method).
- This product is also not to be installed in areas that have a risk of flooding such as saunas or outdoor areas.
- Existing sheet vinyl floors should not be heavily cushioned and not exceed more than one layer in thickness. Soft underlayment and soft substrates will diminish the products inherent strength in resisting indentations & lock integrity.

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### WOOD SUBFLOORS

- If this flooring is intended to be installed over an existing wooden floor, it is recommended to repair any loose boards or squeaks before you begin the installation.
- Nail or screw every 15 cm along joists to avoid squeaking.
- Use of a 0.15mm poly-film is required to cover 100% of timber floors to allow natural rafting of the floor and prevent moisture from swelling the wood subfloor.
- We recommend laying the flooring crossways to the existing floorboards.
- All other subfloors - Plywood, OSB, particleboard, chipboard, wafer board, etc. must be structurally sound and must be installed following their manufacturer's recommendations.
- Timber subfloor should be structurally firm and flat, avoid installations where subfloor has bounce/ spring.

### CONCRETE SUBFLOORS

- Existing concrete subfloors must be fully cured, at least 60 days old, smooth, permanently dry, clean, and free of all foreign material such as dust, wax, solvents, paint, grease, oils, and old adhesive residue. Curing agents and hardeners could cause bonding failure and should not be used.
- We recommend using a minimum 0.15mm poly-film as a moisture barrier between the concrete subfloor and the flooring when RH is greater than 90%.

### DO NOT INSTALL OVER

- Any type of carpet.
- Existing cushion-backed vinyl flooring.
- Floating floor of any type, loose lay, and perimeter fastened sheet vinyl.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

In-floor Hydro Heat: Flooring can be installed over 12mm embedded hydro heat using the floating method. Maximum operating temperature should never exceed 27°C. Use of an in-floor temperature sensor is recommended to avoid overheating.

- Turn the heat off for 24 hours before, during and 24 hours after installation when installing over hydro heated subfloors.
- Before installing over newly constructed hydro heat systems, operate the system at maximum

capacity to force any residual moisture from the cementitious topping of the hydro heat system.

- Make sure that the temperature in the room is maintained consistent between 15-27°C before and during the installation.
- Floor temperature must not exceed 27°C.
- Once the installation has been completed, the hydro heating system should be turned on and increased gradually (3-degree increments) every 24 hours a maximum of 27°C.
- Refer to the hydro heat system's manufacturer recommendations for additional guidance.

**Warning:** Electric heating mats are not recommended.

### III. INSTALLATION

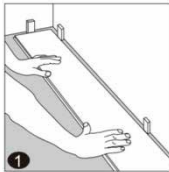
- Remove baseboard, quarter-round moldings, wall base, appliances and furniture from room. For best results, door trim should be under-cut to allow flooring to move freely without being pinched. After preparation work, sweep and vacuum the entire work area to remove all dust and debris.
- You must always ensure you leave minimum 6mm expansion gap between walls and fixtures such as pillars, stairs, etc (increase to 10mm expansion for areas over 30m<sup>2</sup>). These gaps will be covered with trim moldings after the floor is installed.  
**Important notice:** When installing in areas that are exposed to room temperature over 40°C or significant temperature fluctuations the expansion joint be increased to 10mm entire periphery and from all fixtures in the room.
- Window coverings are recommended for all areas during sunlight hours.
- Whenever possible, plan the layout so that the joints in the planks do not fall on top of joints or seams in the existing substrate. The end joints of the planks should be staggered a minimum of 20 cm apart. Do not install over expansion joints. Avoid installing pieces shorter than 30 cm at beginning or end of rows.
- Do not install your kitchen cabinets directly over your floor.
- Decide the installation direction. It is recommended to install the boards perpendicular to the window following the direction of the main source of light.
- Measure the area to be installed: The board width of the last row shall not be less than 50mm in width. If so, adjust the width of the first row to be

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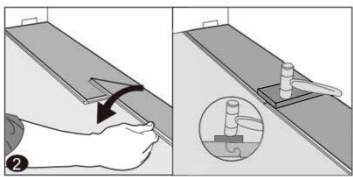
installed. In narrow hallways, it is recommended to install the floor parallel to the length of the hall.

- **UNDERLAY:** Signature floors come with a pre-attached underlay, therefore no additional is necessary. Use of an additional underlay can lead to installation failure and will void the warranty.

1. **First row, first plank:** After thoroughly cleaning the subfloor, you should begin laying from left to right. Position the first plank so that grooved edge is facing you. Place the floorboard 6mm from the left wall. Use spacers between the wall and the floorboard. Increase to 10mm for areas over 30m<sup>2</sup>.



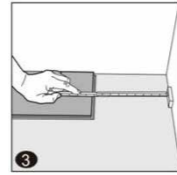
2. **First row, second plank:** Drop the plank and gently tap down the end with a hammer & tapping block so it firmly locks into the previous plank until both are at the same height. Make sure both planks are perfectly aligned. It is crucial that the short edges of two connecting planks are correctly aligned, and the hammer with tapping block contacts the plank in the area directly above the short edge, allowing for a correct locking.



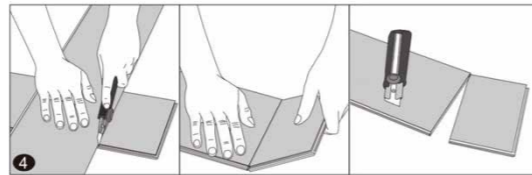
**Note:** Tapping the area close to the short edge, but not directly above it may result in permanent damage to the joint. Continue installing the first row until you reach the wall on the opposite wall.

**IMPORTANT:** If you notice both planks aren't at the same height or are not well locked together, please follow the disassembling instructions at the bottom of the page, disassemble and check if any debris stuck inside the lock is obstructing. Failure to properly line up the end joint and attempting to force it in while out of alignment could result in permanent damage to the end joint.

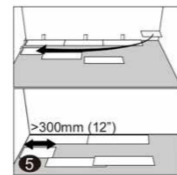
3. **First row, last plank:** At the end of the first row, leave an expansion gap of 6mm to the wall and measure the length of the last plank to fit. Increase to 10mm for areas over 30m<sup>2</sup>.



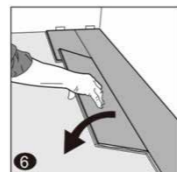
4. **To cut the plank:** Use a simple utility knife and ruler, and with the top side facing up, cut heavily and several times on the same axis. The knife will not go through the surface but make a deep cut. You can then lift one half of the plank using your other hand to hold down the second placing it very close to the cut. The plank will split naturally. Use a saw or guillotine on sides.



5. **Second row, first plank:** Start the second row with the leftover cut part of the last plank of the previous row. This small plank should measure at least 30 cm. Otherwise, cut a new plank in half and use it to begin the second row. The end joints of each adjoining row should not be closer than 20 cm to each other. Whenever practical, use the piece cut from the preceding row to start the next row.

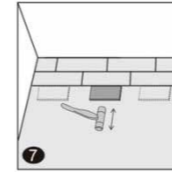


6. **Second row, second plank:** Click the long side of the plank into the previous row and place it tight to the short end of the previous plank with an angle of 25-30 degrees. Drop the plank and gently tap on the end with a hammer and tapping block so it firmly locks into the previous plank until both are at the same height. Make sure both planks are perfectly aligned.

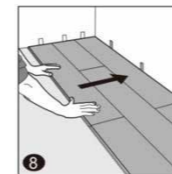


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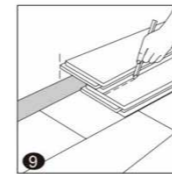
7. **After finishing the installation of every row:** Use scrap pieces (male on female) and a hammer to gently tap the planks into the click of the previous row to make sure they are tightly clicked together and make sure there is no gap between the long side of the planks installed. Any gapping can compromise the whole installation.



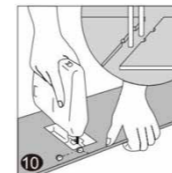
8. **Tip:** After the first 2-3 rows of planks are installed; they should be checked with a string line to ensure that rows are still running straight. If they are not, it could be that the starting wall has some irregularities that caused bowing in the installation. If so, the starting row of planks may have to be scribed and re-trimmed to account for any unevenness in the wall. This can be done without having to disassemble the beginning rows.



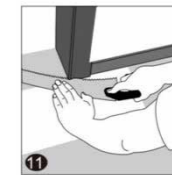
9. **To lay the last row:** Position a loose board exactly on top of the last row laid. Place another board on top, with the tongue side touching the wall. Draw a line along the edge of this boards, to mark the first board. Cut along the edge of this board to mark the first board. Cut along this line to obtain the required width. Insert this cut board against the wall. The last row should be at least 50mm wide. The spacers can then be removed.



10. **Holes for pipes:** Measure the diameter of the pipe and drill a hole that is 12mm larger. Saw off a piece as shown in the figure and lay the board in place on the floor. Then lay the sawed-off piece in place.



11. **Door molding and skirting:** Lay a board (with the decorative side down) next to the door molding and saw as shown in the figure. Then slide the floorboard under molding.



## IV. FINISHING THE INSTALLATION

Replace molding or wall base, allowing slight clearance between the molding and the planks. Nail the molding to the wall surface, not through the flooring. At doorways and at other areas where the flooring planks may meet other flooring surfaces, it is preferable to use a "T" molding, or similar, to cover the exposed edge but not pinch the planks. Leave a 6mm gap between the planks 10mm in areas over 30m<sup>2</sup> and the adjoining surface.

**NOTE:** Skirting/ Molding should not be forced down on top of flooring under any circumstances. This can cause a pinching affect, restricting product movement and void warranty.

- Scotia and skirting should not be fixed to flooring.

## V. MAINTENANCE

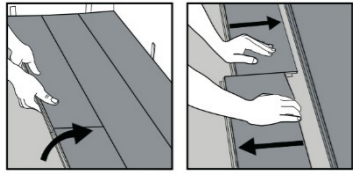
- Sweep or vacuum daily using soft bristle attachments.
- Clean up spills and excessive liquids immediately.
- Damp mop as needed and use cleaners recommended for vinyl flooring.
- The use of residential steam mops on this product is allowed. Use at lowest power with a suitable soft pad, do not hold a steam mop on one spot for an extended period of time. Refer to the steam mop's manufacturer instructions for proper usage.
- Use proper floor protection devices such as felt protectors under furniture.
- Place a walk-off mat at outside entrances to reduce the amount of dirt brought into your home. Do not use mats with a latex or rubber backing since these backings can cause permanent discoloration.
- Do not use abrasive cleaners, bleach or wax to maintain the floor.
- Do not drag or slide heavy objects across the floor.

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### VI. DISASSEMBLING

Separate the whole row by lifting it up delicately at an angle. To separate the planks, leave them flat on the ground and slide them apart. If planks do not separate easy, you can slightly lift up the planks (5°) when sliding them apart.



### Abode - Installation Guidelines

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